

communication information to a viewer; and  
display means for displaying said sequential character image.

2. (ONCE AMENDED) The image generating apparatus as claimed in claim 1,  
which further comprises:

storage means for storing a plurality of said unit image groups,  
said storage means storing a plurality of kinds of unit image groups having mutually  
different starting reference images and ending reference images with respect to a same  
communication information,  
said image generating means reading a leading unit image group and a trailing image  
group which has a starting reference image approximately matching an ending reference image  
of the leading unit image group from said storage means and connecting the leading and trailing  
unit image groups.

3. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a  
program for causing a computer to generate a sequential character image, comprising:  
image generating means for causing the computer to generate a sequential character  
image by connecting a plurality of unit image groups which are respectively defined and  
guaranteed to indicate one communication information to a viewer; and  
display means for causing the computer to display said sequential character image.

4. (ONCE AMENDED) An image generating apparatus which generates a motion  
picture, comprising:

a database storing unit component images respectively representing a series of actions,  
each of said unit component images being defined and guaranteed to indicate one  
communication information to a viewer and being made up of a plurality of images including a  
starting image and an ending image of an action of a character;

a data retrieving part selectively searching and reading the unit component images  
stored in said database; and

a connecting part connecting an end image of a first unit component image read by said  
data retrieving part and a starting image of a second unit component image read by said data  
retrieving part.

5. (ONCE AMENDED) An image generating apparatus for generating a motion picture, comprising:

a database storing unit image groups respectively representing an action of a character and made up of a plurality of images, in correspondence with attribute information defining each action, each of said unit image groups being defined and guaranteed to indicate one communication information to a viewer;

a retrieving part reading a unit image group corresponding to input attribute information from said database, based on the input attribute information; and

editing means for editing the unit image group read by said retrieving part.

6. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing a computer to generate a motion picture, comprising:

a data retrieving part causing the computer to selectively search and read unit component images stored in a database which stores unit component images respectively representing a series of actions, each of said unit component images being defined and guaranteed to indicate one communication information to a viewer and being made up of a plurality of images including a starting image and an ending image of an action of a character; and

a connecting part causing the computer to connect an end image of a first unit component image which is caused to read by said data retrieving part and a starting image of a second unit component image which is caused to read by said data retrieving part.

7. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing a computer to generate a motion picture, comprising:

a retrieving part causing the computer to read a unit image group corresponding to input attribute information from a database, based on the input attribute information, said database storing unit image groups respectively representing an action of a character and made up of a plurality of images, in correspondence with attribute information defining each action, each of said unit image groups being defined and guaranteed to indicate one communication information to a viewer; and

editing means for causing the computer to edit the unit image group caused to read by said retrieving part.

8. (ONCE AMENDED) An image generating apparatus comprising:  
image generating means for generating a sequential character image by connecting a plurality of unit image groups which are respectively defined and guaranteed to indicate one communication information to a viewer;  
display means for displaying the sequential character image; and  
control means for controlling a device depending on a motion of the sequential character image.

9. (ONCE AMENDED) An image generating apparatus comprising:  
sequence generating means for generating an operation sequence by connecting a plurality of picture scenes of a character image generated by said image generating apparatus, by treating the character image in units of significance spaces corresponding to one picture scene from a point in time when a switching of one picture of the character image occurs to a point in time when a next switching of one picture occurs,  
each of said significance spaces being defined as an object at least including a method corresponding to a character display and a method corresponding to a user input and/or output.

15. (NEW) An image generating method to generate a motion picture, comprising:  
defining communication information, which guarantees to indicate the communication information to a viewer;  
generating a sequential character image by connecting a plurality of unit image groups which, respectively, indicate the communication information to a viewer; and  
displaying said sequential character image.

16. (NEW) The image generating method as claimed in claim 15, which further comprises:  
storing a plurality of said unit image groups,  
storing a plurality of kinds of unit image groups having mutually different starting reference images and ending reference images with respect to a same communication information,